



Dental Public Health Activities Descriptive Summaries

Practice Number: 26001
Submitted By: Dental Health Program, Minnesota Department of Health
Submission Date: April 2002
Last Updated: April 2002

National Governors Association (NGA) Policy Academy on Oral Health Care for Children

Minnesota was one of seven states to participate in the first National Governors Association (NGA) Policy Academy on Oral Health Care for Children, held December 13-15, 2000. The Academy required Minnesota to assemble a state team, the Minnesota NGA Oral Health Policy Academy Team. The team represented major stakeholders of oral health including the following members: a representative from the Governor's Office, a legislator, the state dental director, a representative from the Department of Human Resources, a representative from the state dental association, representatives for community programs, a practicing pediatric dentist, and a representative from a major HMO health plan. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funded the NGA Policy Academies, which covered travel expenses for up to seven members of the Minnesota team to attend the Academy. Time and effort of the Minnesota team members devoted to the preparation, attending the Academy and subsequent meetings were donated as in-kind contributions from the individuals and their agencies/organizations. Outcomes observed from the work of the Academy and the Minnesota NGA team included: (1) gaining strong and influential support from the team's participating state legislator to address oral health issues, (2) development of a vision statement and a strategic action plan to improve children's oral health in the state, (3) passage of the 2001 dental access legislation that included improving the dental workforce by licensing foreign trained dentists and expanding the duties of dental auxiliaries, (4) providing enhanced reimbursement rates for "critical access providers" who delivered more than \$50,000 of dental services for public dental program recipients, (5) developing/expanding community-based dental clinics, and (6) establishing dental access grants.

Contact Person(s) for Inquiries:

Mildred H. Roesch, RDH, MPH, Consultant, Dental Health Program, Minnesota Department of Health, 85 East Seventh Place, St. Paul, MN 55164-0882, Phone: 651-281-9900, Fax: 651-215-8953, Email: mildred.roesch@health.state.mn.us

Tom Fields, Minnesota Department of Human Services, 444 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155, Phone: 651-297-7303, Email: tom.fields@state.mn.us